

## VI. IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

Import requirements for cattle would be revised to provide clarification of existing rules. Specifically, the proposed changes have been added:

- Sexually intact females 12 months of age and older will have to meet the requirements of an open cow rule (see III. Movement Requirements).
- Cattle imported into Montana may not originate from a trich positive herd.



## VII. PENALTIES

The proposed rule will allow for quarantine and testing of any animal determined to be in violation of trich program rules. This was not specifically outlined previously and MDOL had to rely upon other provisions in Montana Code (MCA) to enforce testing requirements.

The complete version of the proposed rule is available on the department website at [liv.mt.gov](http://liv.mt.gov)

The trichomoniasis program in Montana is an industry driven program developed in 2007.

On July 26, 2011, the Montana Board of Livestock approved the publication of proposed changes to the Montana trichomoniasis program for public comment.

The proposed changes were published on August 11, 2011. The public comment period will be 60 days long, ending on October 12, 2011. MDOL encourages producers and veterinarians to review the proposed changes and submit comments to the department.

The proposed changes include:

- The creation of a trich epizootic area to focus disease surveillance;
- An open cow rule;
- Allowable exemptions for cattle grazing in common; and
- Mandatory use of the Montana trich tag

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## *Montana Trichomoniasis Program*

## Proposed Changes to the Administrative Rule

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Comment Period  
Ends  
October 12, 2011



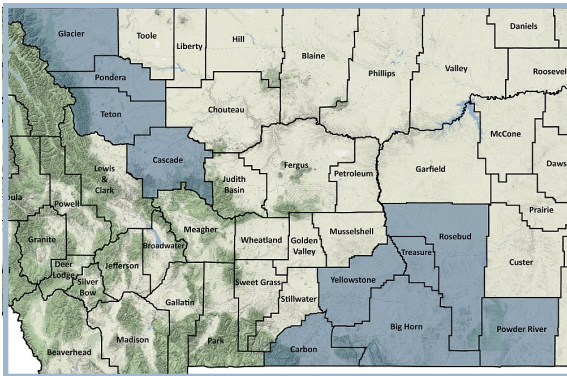
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This pamphlet describes proposed changes to the current administrative rules (ARM) on trichomoniasis. The complete rule can be found on our department website: [liv.mt.gov](http://liv.mt.gov)

## I. TRICHOMONIASIS EPIZOOTIC AREAS

The proposed rule eliminates the state-wide testing requirement while focusing surveillance on counties that have been determined to have the highest risk of trich.

The counties in the newly established epizootic areas are Glacier, Pondera, Teton and Cascade, and Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud and Powder River (pictured below).



## II. TEST REQUIREMENTS

Testing requirements in Montana would apply to; a) animals from trich epizootic areas, b) animals imported into Montana, and c) animals grazing in common.

Trichomoniasis tests would only be valid for 60 days (vs. 90 previously) or until bulls are commingled with female cattle.

## III. MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Open Cow Rule: Under the proposed regulations, open female cattle that are greater than 12 months of age from trich positive herds, OR are sold within or originate from a trich epizootic area, OR are imported into Montana would have movement restrictions.

Specifically, the proposed rule states:

- All sexually intact female cattle over 12 months of age must be either:
  - (i) spayed within 30 days of arrival; or
  - (ii) verified as a virgin by owner/agent affidavit; or
  - (iii) verified by an accredited veterinarian to be greater than 120 days pregnant; or
  - (iv) verified to be not exposed to an intact bull within the last 120 days by owner/agent affidavit; or
  - (v) be destined directly to slaughter or to a feedlot and then to slaughter.

The open cow rule was proposed to improve the efficacy of surveillance efforts in epizootic areas and to ensure that trich is not introduced to non-endemic areas through movement of open cows.

Trich Positive Herds: Clarification was added regarding movement restrictions to improve MDOL's ability to enforce the current trich program requirements. This will prevent the unrestricted movement of open cows from positive herds prior to completion of a final fall bull test.

Specifically, the proposed rule states:

Release of trichomoniasis test positive herd status will be when a negative whole herd bull test is completed prior to the next breeding season.

## IV. IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Mandatory use of Montana trich tags by veterinarians has been proposed because of historical problems with bull identification, including the accidental slaughter of a trich negative bull because of poor ID compliance.



## V. COMMON GRAZING

Trich test requirements will remain in place for common grazing and grazing associations under the proposed rule. However, an exemption has been added for associations with approved health plans.

Specifically, the proposed rule states:

Co-mingled grazing herds may be exempt from annual testing provided that a signed, written health plan including best management practices for all of the individual herds grazing in common exists. This health plan must be approved and signed by both a local deputy state veterinarian and the state veterinarian.